Sopore Incident

1092. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the version of the B.S.F., the J & K Police and the State Government of J & K about the Sopore incident of 6th January, 1993;

(b) whether Government have accepted the versions of the aforesaid authorities;

(c) whether any judicial enquiry been ordered into the incident; and

(d) if so, what are terms of reference of the Commission of Enquiry and whether the residents of the Sopore expressed willingness to co-operate with the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) A one man Inquiry Commission headed by Mr. Justice Amarjeet Chaudhary, a Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court has been set up by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to enquire into the incident at Sopore on 6th January, 1993. According to terms of reference the Commission shall enquire into:

(i) The facts and circumstances relating and leading to the events and incidents of January 6, 1993 in Sopore town, District Baramulla which resulted in loss of life, bodily injuries and damage to the property;

(ii) The extent of loss of life and the injuries caused to persons, resulting from the incidents, and causes thereof;

(iii) The cause and extent of the damage by fire to the residential houses, commercial establishments and other property.

(iv) Quantum of force used by the security personnel on duty and to examine whether it was commensurate with the requirements of the situation, if not, fix the responsibility thereof;

(v) To suggest remedial measures to prevent the recurrence of such events.

The Commission is likely to begin its enquiry shortly. It is, therefore, not possible to give any comments in respect of the cooperation of the people of Sopore with the enquiry or otherwise.

Since a judicial enquiry has been instituted, it would not be appropriate to say anything about the version of the B.S.F., the J&K Police, the State Government or any other person or persons in respect of the incident.

Amnesty International's Observation Regarding Human Rights in India

1093. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an advertisement appearing in the INDEPENDENT, London, of 28th January, 1993, in which, inter alia, Amnesty International has been quoted as saying that men, women and even children in Kashmir are beaten in a senseless manner given electric shocks and have their limbs crushed by heavy rollers;

(b) what is the reaction of Government to the said advertisement; and

(c) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to prevent the country's image from being sullied abroad by such false and vicious propoganda?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: (a) to (c) We are aware of the advertisement in question. The matter was taken up with the newspaper by the High Commission. The newspaper has clarified that the Advertisements do not necessarily reflect their views, and according to their policy

they publish advertisements regardless of the content, provided the advertisement does not violate norms of libal or obscenity.

It is not the first time that such false reports have appeared in the Foreign Press. The Government keeps a constant watch on such propaganda aimed against India so that it can be rebutted swiftly and effectively by the dissemination of correct and factual information. This is done in a variety of ways, through interaction with governments at different levels, the media and other opinion-makers including Members of National Assemblies and Parliaments, academics, etc. Contradictions and press releases in the foreign media are also being issued regularly. Details of the Pakistan supported terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir are also being widely and regularly dissaminated.

Attack by Militants/Terrorists on Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir

1094. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times, during the period from January 1, 1992 to January 31, 1993, the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir were attacked by the militants/ terrorists;

(b) how many casualties were suffered by the security forces in these attacks and how many attackers were killed or injured in these attacks;

(c) what are the reasons of high rate of casualty among the security forces; and

(d) what remedial measures are being taken to keep the casualties to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) and (b) According to available information there were 3647 attacks by the militants on the Security Forces from 1.1.1992 to 31.1.1993 in which 185 personnel of the Security Forces were killed During the same period 805 militants/attackers were killed and 93 injured.

(c) and (d) Mainly casualties among Security Forces occur, because many of the attacks are made by the militants in congested localities, from high buildings or by men disguised as women, which restricts the capacity of the Security Forces to retaliate on account of possible danger of loss to civilian life and property. The militants are also equipped with sophisticated long range weapons and often lob granades at the pickets and disappear. Efforts have been made to strengthen the intelligence machinery and streamline operations so that anti-terrotist operations can be carried out on the basis of difinite information to achieve greater success and the casualties of Security Forces and innocent civilians can be minimised.

Identity cards to those residing in Infiltration affected and Border Areas

1095. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issues identity cards to those residing in the infiltration affected and border areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to bring forward legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) to (b) A Pilot Scheme for issue of identity card is under implementation in select border areas in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The objectives of the Pilot Scheme are to register bonafide residents, to collect reliable information regarding the status of the residents and to check the movement of the visitors staying for over 30 days in the areas covered under the Scheme. Central assistance on the pattern of 90% grant and 10% loan is